E/2004/26
E/CN.5/2004/8

United Nations

Commission for Social Development

Report on the forty-second session (21 February 2003 and 4-13 and 20 February 2004)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2004
Supplement No. 6

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2004
Supplement No. 6

Commission for Social Development

Report on the forty-second session (21 February 2003 and 4-13 and 20 February 2004)

United Nations • New York, 2004

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

Summary

At its forty-second session, the Commission for Social Development considered three topics under its agenda and multi-year programme of work: the priority theme, "Improving public sector effectiveness"; the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups; and emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development: international migration and migrants from a social perspective.

In respect of the priority theme, the Commission adopted its agreed conclusions and recommended them to the Economic and Social Council for endorsement.

Aside from holding a general debate on the priority theme, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Improving public sector effectiveness". The Chairperson's summary of the panel's work is contained in annex I to the present report.

Also under the priority theme, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development".

In connection with its review of plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the Commission adopted draft resolutions relating to older persons, persons with disabilities and the family.

To promote wider awareness of modalities for a "bottom-up" approach to review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, a panel discussion was organized in order to bring before the Commission experts with knowledge and experience of participatory methodologies. The Chairperson's summary of the discussion is contained in annex II to the present report.

The Commission also adopted a resolution on modalities for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

With regard to persons with disabilities, the Commission also recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of two draft resolutions.

The Commission recommended to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption of a draft resolution concerning the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond.

As part of its consideration of the agenda item on "Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development", the Commission heard a panel presentation on the main findings of the Third International Forum for Social Development, which took place in October 2003. The subject of the meeting was "International migration and migrants from a social perspective". Also under this item, the Commission held a panel discussion on "International migration and migrants from a social perspective". The Chairperson's summary of the discussion is contained in annex III to the present report.

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, in which the Assembly requested each functional commission to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, the Commission had before it for its consideration the

report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methods of work of the Commission, which contained specific recommendations. The Commission, taking note of the views expressed during the session, took note of the report of the Secretary-General and decided to continue consideration and discussion of the methods of work at its forty-third session.

The Commission was also invited to review the proposed strategic framework for social policy and development for the biennium 2006-2007 and to provide its comments thereon.

Finally, the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve the provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-third session in 2005.

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	1
	A. Draft resolution to be recommended by the Council for adoption by the General Assembly	1
	B. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council	3
	C. Agreed conclusions for adoption by the Council	11
	D. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	14
	E. Resolution and decisions brought to the attention of the Council	16
II.	Organizational matters: review of the methods of work of the Commission	19
III.	Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly	20
IV.	Programme questions and other matters	38
V.	Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission	39
VI.	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-second session	40
VII.	Organization of the session	41
	A. Opening and duration of the session	41
	B. Attendance	41
	C. Election of officers	41
	D. Agenda and organization of work	42
	E. Documentation	42
Annexes		
I.	Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on the priority theme "Improving public sector effectiveness"	43
II.	Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002	47
III.	Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on international migration and migrants from a social perspective	49
IV.	List of documents before the Commission at its forty-second session	51

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution to be recommended by the Council for adoption by the General Assembly

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 45/133 of 14 December 1990, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002 and 58/15 of 3 December 2003 concerning the proclamation of, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family in 1994 and its tenth anniversary in 2004,

Recalling also that relevant United Nations instruments on human rights as well as relevant global plans and programmes of action call for the widest possible protection and assistance to be accorded to the family, bearing in mind that in different cultural, political and social systems various forms of the family exist,

Recalling further that the family is the basic unit of society and, as such, should be strengthened, and that it is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing that the preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provided a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues,

Also recognizing the commendable efforts made by Governments at the local and national levels in carrying out specific programmes concerning families,

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 40-46.

Emphasizing that equality between women and men and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life, and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child,

Aware that families are affected by social and economic changes, manifested as observable worldwide trends and that the causes and consequences of those trends concerning families have to be identified and analysed,

Noting with concern the devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on family life as well as the devastating effects on family life of other infectious diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis,

Also noting with concern the devastating effects of difficult social and economic conditions, armed conflicts and natural disasters on family life,

Recognizing the important role of non-governmental organizations, at both the local and the national level, working in the interest of families,

Aware that there is a need for continued inter-agency cooperation on the family in order to generate greater awareness of family issues among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

Recalling that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family will be observed and celebrated during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Notes* that the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family is an integral part of the agenda and the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Social Development until 2006;

2. *Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels concerning family issues, including applied studies and research, in order to promote the role of families in development and develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues;

3. *Urges* the international community to address family-related concerns within the framework of the commitments undertaken at relevant major United Nations conferences and their follow-up processes, including those agreed to in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in June 2001;[2]

4. *Encourages* more inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system on issues related to the family;

5. *Encourages* the regional commissions of the United Nations, within existing resources, to further promote the exchange of experiences at the regional level through the provision of technical assistance, including advisory services to Governments upon request;

6. *Emphasizes* that the Secretariat should continue its important role in the programme of work on family issues within the United Nations system, and in this

[1] E/CN.5/2004/3.
[2] Resolution S-26/2.

regard encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, within existing resources, to continue to cooperate with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the mandated objectives of the Year, including through:

(a) The provision of policy guidance on emerging issues and trends affecting the family through the preparation of studies and research papers aimed, in particular, at enhancing the role of family in society;

(b) The provision of technical assistance to countries, upon request, to enhance, where appropriate, their national capacities in the area of family-related work;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to disseminate a compilation of existing development cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the field of the family for the benefit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, other relevant United Nations bodies, Member States and observers by the time of the holding of the forty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to:

(a) Give appropriate consideration to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family by preparing the observance of the International Day of Families on 15 May 2004 and by taking appropriate steps for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

(b) Continue to utilize the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to provide financial assistance for activities specific to the family and for projects of direct benefit to it, with special focus on least developed and developing countries;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

B. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Comprehensive and integral international convention on protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all Member States and observers to the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 47-51.

work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination, and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/12 of 21 July 2003 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 58/246 of 23 December 2003, by which the Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities would start the negotiations on a draft convention at its third session,

Welcoming the important contributions made so far to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by all stakeholders,

Welcoming the progress made in the Working Group established by the Ad Hoc Committee in preparing a draft text that will form the basis for negotiations on a draft convention in the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account all contributions,

Encouraging Member States and observers to participate actively in the Ad Hoc Committee in order to present to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, a draft text of a convention,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination,

Recognizing the positive steps taken by Governments, including continued collaboration at regional and international levels, to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

Encouraged by the increased support of the international community for the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities under a comprehensive and integral approach,

1. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to contribute to the process of negotiation of a draft international convention by, inter alia, providing its views regarding the social development perspective, bearing in mind the experience in the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[3] and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission to the process of elaboration of a draft convention, and requests the Special Rapporteur to further contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, drawing from her experience in the monitoring of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and in collaboration with the Secretariat, by, inter alia, providing her views on the elements to be considered in drawing up a draft international convention;

[3] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.
[4] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendations 1 (IV).

3. *Requests* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Division for Social Policy and Development, to continue to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, through, inter alia, the provision of information on issues related to a draft international convention and the promotion of awareness of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, from within existing resources;

4. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in order to jointly support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

5. *Invites* bodies, organs and entities of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, in particular those working in the fields of social and economic development and human rights, within their respective mandates, as well as non-governmental organizations, national disability and human rights institutions and independent experts with an interest in the matter, to continue to make available to the Ad Hoc Committee suggestions about elements to be considered in a draft international convention;

6. *Encourages* the relevant bodies of the United Nations to continue to promote and support the active participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 56/510 of 23 July 2002 and 57/229 of 18 December 2002, and requests the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to non-governmental organizations all available information on accreditation procedures, modalities and supportive measures for their participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

7. *Invites* Governments, civil society and the private sector to contribute to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly to support the participation of non-governmental organizations and experts from developing countries, in particular from least developed countries, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

8. *Stresses* the need for additional efforts to ensure accessibility with reasonable accommodation regarding facilities and documentation at the United Nations for all persons with disabilities, in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/474 of 23 July 2002;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur to report, as part of their presentations to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution II
Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities, and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and 58/132 of 22 December 2003,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 57/229 of 18 December 2002, in which it sought views on proposals for a convention, and 58/246 of 26 November 2003, by which it decided that the Ad Hoc Committee would start negotiations on a draft convention at its third session,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/26 of 24 July 2002 on further promotion of the equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights, Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/49 of 23 April 2003[5] on the human rights of persons with disabilities and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

Noting with satisfaction that the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, play an increasingly important role in the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note* of the views of Governments, contained in the report of the Secretary-General,[6] on the proposals contained in the report of the former Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission on Social Development,[7] especially on the suggested supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities contained in the annex to the report of the Special Rapporteur,[8] as well as the views expressed during the forty-second session of the Commission for Social Development;

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on Disability undertaken in accordance with section IV of the Standard Rules;

---

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 52-55.

[5] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 3* (E/2003/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[6] E/CN.5/2004/4.

[7] E/CN.5/2002/4.

[8] Ibid., annex.

3. *Recommends* that the General Assembly consider the suggested supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities contained in the annex to the report of the Special Rapporteur, with a view to completing its consideration at its fifty-ninth session;

4. *Recommends also* that the General Assembly, in considering the suggested supplement to the Standard Rules, take into account the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;

5. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on Disability to contribute to the consideration by the General Assembly of the suggested supplement to the Standard Rules, and requests the Secretary-General to make her contributions available to all Member States and observer States;

6. *Encourages* Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability in order to support the activities of the Special Rapporteur as well as new and expanded initiatives to strengthen national capacities for equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

7. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur, to submit a report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session.

Draft resolution III
Implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, by which the Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to conduct, during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda and related initiatives on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the independent high-level quality evaluation, as well as on the basis of proposals by the Secretary-General on the modalities of the future engagement of the United Nations with the New Partnership for Africa's Development and its resolution 56/508 of 27 June 2002,

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 4-7.

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration[9] of 8 September 2000, the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development[10] of 16 September 2002 and General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/233 of 23 December 2003, on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support, in which the Assembly, inter alia, welcomed the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate,

Welcoming the adoption of the chapter entitled "Sustainable development for Africa" in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,[11]

Cognizant of the link between the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the international community committed itself to addressing the special needs of Africa, and of the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General of 20 June 1995[12] and 12 June 2001[13] submitted to the high-level segments of the Economic and Social Council devoted to the consideration of the development of Africa,

Also bearing in mind that, while the primary responsibility for the development of Africa remains with African countries, the international community has a stake in it and in supporting the efforts of those countries in that regard,

Noting with appreciation the commitment of the international community in its support of the New Partnership, and welcoming in this regard the outcome of the third Tokyo International Conference on African Development,

Underlining that international cooperation based on a spirit of partnership and solidarity among all countries contributes to create an enabling environment for the achievement of the goals of social development,

Recognizing the urgent need to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to diversify their economies as well as enhance capacity-building and promote regional cooperation, and in this context notes the outcome of the fourth Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public Service, held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 4 to 7 May 2003,

---

[9] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[10] See General Assembly resolution 57/2.

[11] ***Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September 2002*** (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[12] E/1995/81.

[13] E/2001/83.

Recognizing also the serious challenges facing social development in Africa, in particular illiteracy, poverty and HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major communicable diseases,

1. *Emphasizes* that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

2. *Recognizes* that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development;

4. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, in a spirit of partnership, inter alia, international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development and implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world";

5. *Reaffirms also* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society for the achievement of social development;

6. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a socio-economic programme of the African Union that embodies the vision and commitment of all African Governments and peoples;

7. *Also welcomes* the commitment of African countries to peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management, as well as their commitment to taking concrete measures to strengthen the mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution, as embodied in the New Partnership, as an essential basis for sustainable development in Africa, and in this context welcomes the ongoing efforts of African countries to develop further the African peer review mechanism, which is an important and innovative feature of the New Partnership;

8. *Notes* the progress made with respect to the African peer review mechanism, in particular the accession of a number of member States of the African Union to the mechanism, as well as the appointment of the Panel of Eminent Persons;

9. *Stresses* the need for renewed and political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being in order to achieve the objectives of social development;

10. *Emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms and transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

11. *Emphasizes also* the objectives of the New Partnership to eradicate poverty in Africa and to place African countries, both individually and collectively,

on a path of sustainable growth and development, thus facilitating Africa's participation in the globalization process;

12. *Underlines* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[14] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[15] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and the need for ensuring, within the framework of the New Partnership, their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national, regional and international levels;

13. *Welcomes with appreciation* actions already under way at the regional level to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters[16] covering the priority areas of the New Partnership, and in that regard urges the strengthening of that process as a means of enhancing the coordinated response of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership;

14. *Stresses*, in that context, the vital need for the United Nations in assisting Member States to achieve the development objectives and targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and to mainstream them in an integrated and coordinated manner in United Nations development activities;

15. *Recognizes* that illiteracy, poverty, HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major communicable diseases add challenges to Africa's development, and urges the international community to continue to increase its assistance to African countries in their efforts to address these challenges;

16. *Notes* the African Union declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of July 2003, in which the Union recognized the need for the formal integration of the New Partnership into the structures and processes of the Union as well as the need to sustain the momentum, genuine interest, support and solidarity created by the New Partnership;

17. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership in the new spirit of partnership;

18. *Invites* the international financial institutions to ensure that their support for Africa is compatible with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership in the new spirit of partnership;

19. *Urges* the United Nations system, in coordinating its activities at the national, regional and global levels, to foster a coherent response, including through close collaboration with bilateral donors in the implementation of the New Partnership, in response to the needs of individual countries within its larger framework;

---

[14] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[15] Ibid., annex II.

[16] The clusters are: infrastructure: water and sanitation, energy, transport, and information and communication technologies; governance, peace and security; agriculture, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanization; and human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS.

20. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to invite the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its role in respect of system-wide coordination, to consider how to support the objectives of General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002;

21. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in his efforts to harmonize current initiatives on Africa, to enhance coordination between the United Nations and its specialized agencies, programmes and funds;

22. *Acknowledges* the reflection by the Secretary-General of the social dimensions of the New Partnership in his report on the priority theme "National and international cooperation for social development" to the Commission of Social Development at its forty-first session,[17] and invites him to continue to reflect those dimensions in future reports submitted to the Commission on its priority themes;

23. *Invites* all development partners, including regional and international development partners and the United Nations system, to support the governance and public administration programme and the Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public Service through the provision of critical resources and collaboration in building the capacity of local institutions and their staff to ensure sustainability into the future, as outlined in the Stellenbosch Declaration;

24. *Acknowledges* the linkage between the work of the Committee of African Ministers of Public Service and the programmatic thrust of the New Partnership;

25. *Recommends* that the Commission for Social Development continue to give prominence to the social dimensions of the New Partnership in its future priority themes;

26. *Decides* to bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session during its consideration of the agenda item entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

C. Agreed conclusions for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following text:

Agreed conclusions of the Commission for Social Development on improving public sector effectiveness*

The Economic and Social Council,

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission for Social Development with respect to its priority theme at its forty-second session:

1. Governments have the primary responsibility for the provision of social services in order to enhance social development and contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the

[17] E/CN.5/2003/5 and Corr.1.

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 22-26.

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[18] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[19] the outcome document adopted at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[20] entitled World Summit for Social Development and Beyond: Achieving Social Development for All in a Globalizing World, and the Millennium Declaration.[21] In this regard, national priorities and policies have the leading role in the development process. At the same time, national efforts need to be supported by an enabling international environment. The Commission emphasizes the crucial role of the public sector in, inter alia, the provision of equitable, adequate and accessible social services for all to meet the essential needs of the entire population, in particular those excluded from social services and those most in need. Governments should constantly strive to improve the public sector, taking into account the level of economic and social development of each country.

2. The Commission reiterates that sound social and economic development policies at the national and international levels should be part of the framework for the improvement of the effectiveness of the public sector. This requires long-term planning, well-defined priorities and coherent policies, effective implementation and capacity-building. Those policies should be formulated and implemented by Governments, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and should be supported by the international community.

3. The Commission acknowledges that improvement of public sector effectiveness can be achieved through, inter alia, dialogue, partnership and cooperation at all levels. The Commission encourages Governments to strengthen the exchanges of experience and methods of effective delivery of public services. The United Nations system and international financial, trade and economic institutions and bilateral donors are invited to play an important role, through an integrated and coherent approach, in assisting Governments, in particular those in developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, in this endeavour, specifically in exchanging and disseminating good practices and capacity-building activities aimed at improving public sector effectiveness.

4. The Commission acknowledges that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, need to have a sufficient level of financial resources in order to provide social services commensurate with the needs of their citizens.

5. The Commission recognizes that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. In order to build support for official development assistance, heads of State and Government have pledged to further improve policies and development strategies, both nationally and internationally, to enhance aid effectiveness.

---

[18] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[19] Ibid., annex II.

[20] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[21] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

6. Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, demands a new partnership between developed and developing countries. In this context, the Commission stresses the importance of the commitment recently made by heads of State and Government to achieving sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, as well as to mobilizing domestic resources, attracting international flows, promoting international trade as an engine for development, increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems.

7. Each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, within which the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. In this context, the Commission reaffirms that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in the strengthening of their human, institutional and technological capacity and that the improvement of the effectiveness of the public sector is one of the conditions for social development requiring strengthened international cooperation.

8. The Commission stresses that in making recommendations on macroeconomic policies and implementing various programmes related to development and poverty eradication, the international financial institutions are invited to take full account of the role and specificity of the public sector, notably public social services.

9. At the international level, the Commission has the primary responsibility in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives agreed upon at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. In this regard, the Commission is a forum where countries can participate in an exchange of views and assessment of efforts, including through best practices aimed, inter alia, at promoting public sector effectiveness and seeking optimal ways of ensuring equitable delivery of social services in order to enhance social cohesion and accelerate social development.

10. The Commission recommends that, when making decisions about allocation of public resources, Governments, with the contribution of relevant stakeholders, should consider the social development goals when developing or strengthening, inter alia, their national poverty eradication policies and strategies, taking into account that the financing of effective social services is an investment in economic growth and should be evaluated in the context of their impact on social development goals as well as on public expenditures and finances.

11. The Commission, while noting that economic hardship has in some cases led to reduced public social expenditures, recognizes that social and economic development policies and programmes should be complementary and that effective spending in strengthening public social services, including human capital development, social equity enhancement and social protection, contributes to long-term economic development and the development of society as a whole.

12. The Commission invites Governments to consider complementary and alternative approaches to the delivery of social services, including decentralization,

privatization and public-private partnerships or, where appropriate, the introduction of competitive market-based structures. In general, social services can be delivered most effectively and efficiently by entities that are most appropriate and closest to local communities and are therefore more aware of their needs. While services can be provided by private entities, the fundamental objectives of those services and the ultimate responsibility of the State remain unchanged. The Commission reaffirms that any reform of public service delivery should aim at promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to those services by all, without discrimination, and at eradicating poverty and the promotion and protection of all human rights, promoting full and productive employment and fostering social integration. In this regard, factors such as the rule of law, good governance, sound financial management at all levels, gender equality and strengthened international cooperation are important elements for success in meeting these objectives.

13. The Commission underlines that improvement of public sector effectiveness requires, inter alia, that all countries strive to eliminate corruption at all levels and welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

14. The Commission emphasizes the importance of dialogue and inclusive stakeholder participation, as appropriate, in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of social development policies, including policies on social services, to increase efficiency, effectiveness, accessibility, affordability and flexibility of such services and the importance of the sense of ownership among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, as well as entities that provide social services.

15. The Commission underscores the importance of the principles of transparency, accountability, integrity, efficiency and equality for improving the effectiveness of the public sector. In addition, the Commission considers that when Governments address the monitoring and evaluation of the delivery and impact of social services, equitable access to and quality of such services as well as the attainment of their initial objectives should be taken into account.

D. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

4. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-second session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-third session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-third session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters: review of methods of work of the Commission for Social Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on review of the methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

   (a) Priority theme: review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

      (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

      (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;

      (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

      (iv) Tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

World Youth Report 2005

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

4. Programme questions and other matters:

   (a) Programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2002-2003;

   (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007;

   (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and development for the biennium 2006-2007

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General on nominations of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

5. Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-third session.

E. Resolution and decisions brought to the attention of the Council

5. The following resolution and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 42/1
Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on ageing and on preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Recalling also all resolutions of the General Assembly on ageing and on the International Year of Older Persons,

Recalling further that the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[22] adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, requested the systematic review of its implementation by Member States as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons and that the modalities of review and appraisal should be decided as soon as possible,

Bearing in mind that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/134 of 26 November 2002, requested the Commission for Social Development to address the issue of the periodicity and the format of the review of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action at its forty-second session, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

Also bearing in mind that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

[22] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Taking note of the note by the Secretariat on modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,[23]

1. *Reiterates* its call to all actors at all levels, as appropriate, to participate in the implementation of and follow-up to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;[22]

2. *Decides* to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years, with each review and appraisal cycle to focus on one of the priority directions identified in the Madrid Plan of Action;

3. *Encourages* Member States to establish or to strengthen, as appropriate, national coordinating bodies or mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of and dissemination of information about the Madrid Plan of Action, including its review and appraisal;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to include both ageing-specific policies and ageing-mainstreaming efforts in their review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action and in their national strategies, bearing in mind the importance of mainstreaming ageing into global agendas;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, to facilitate and promote the Madrid Plan of Action, including by making proposals for the design of guidelines for policy development and implementation, advocating means to mainstream ageing issues into development agendas, engaging in dialogue with civil society and the private sector and promoting information exchange;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to propose guidelines for the review and appraisal process, taking into account the views of Member States, civil society and the private sector, including a proposal for a specific theme emanating from the Madrid Plan of Action for the first review and appraisal cycle;

7. *Requests* the United Nations regional commissions, within their mandates, to promote and facilitate the implementation, review and appraisal of and dissemination of information about the Madrid Plan of Action at the regional level, inter alia, by assisting national institutions, at their request, in implementation and monitoring of their actions on ageing, and stresses that such regional implementation strategies should take into account initiatives currently under way in a number of regions;

8. *Requests* the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to actively support national efforts of review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action by providing, upon request, among other things, technical assistance for capacity-building, including for the development of modalities for disaggregating population data and statistics by age and sex;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes, within their mandates, to continue integrating ageing, including from a gender perspective, in their programmes and projects, including at country level, where appropriate, and to report on their progress in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council;

[23] E/CN.5/2004/6.

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to forward his report on the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action to the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development in 2005.

Decision 42/101
Review of methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review of methods of work of the Commission[24] and the views expressed by delegations at its forty-second session and decides to continue consideration of the review of the methods of work of the Commission at its forty-third session.

Decision 42/102
Report of the Secretary-General on improving public sector effectiveness

The Commission for Social Development takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on improving public sector effectiveness.[25]

[24] E/CN.5/2004/2.
[25] E/CN.5/2004/5.

Chapter II

Organizational matters: review of the methods of work of the Commission

1. The Commission considered the review of its methods of work under agenda item 2 at its 11th and resumed 14th meetings, on 11 and 20 February 2004. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/2004/2).

2. At the 11th meeting, on 11 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, India, Indonesia and Peru, and the observers for Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), Cuba, Canada and Qatar (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

4. The Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development responded to questions raised during the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

Review of the methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

5. At its resumed 14th meeting, on 20 February, following statements by the representatives of India and Switzerland and the observers for Cuba, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union) and Egypt, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/2004/2) as well as the views expressed by delegations on the review of its methods of work and to continue consideration of the subject at its next session (see chap. I, sect. E, decision 42/101).

Chapter III

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda (Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly) at its 2nd to 14th meetings, from 4 to 6, 9 to 13 and 20 February 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on preparation for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2004) (E/CN.5/2004/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the views of Governments on the proposals contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability (E/CN.5/2002/4), especially on the suggested supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (E/CN.5/2004/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on improving public sector effectiveness (E/CN.5/2004/5);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (E/CN.5/2004/6);

(e) Statement submitted by Franciscans International and International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Dominican Leadership Conference, Elizabeth Seton Federation, International Association of Charities, International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2004/NGO/1);

(f) Statement submitted by International Movement ATD Fourth World, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2004/NGO/2);

(g) Statement submitted by International Federation on Ageing, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; American Psychological Association, Anglican Consultative Council, The Center for Migration Studies of New York, Child Welfare League of America, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Social Workers, International Kolping Society, International Union of Psychological Science and World Federation of the Ukrainian Women's Organizations, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Gray Panthers, a non-governmental organization on the roster (E/CN.5/2004/NGO/3);

(h) Statement submitted by Elizabeth Seton Federation, International Association of Charities and Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2004/NGO/4);

(i) Statement submitted by Pax Romana, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2004/NGO/5);

(j) Statement submitted by the International Federation of Social Workers, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2004/NGO/6);

(k) Statement submitted by Congregations of St. Joseph and Franciscans International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Dominican Leadership Conference, Elizabeth Seton Federation, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2004/NGO/7);

(l) Statement submitted by Congregations of St. Joseph, Franciscans International and World Association of Girls Guides and Girl Scouts, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Child Welfare League of America, Elizabeth Seton Federation, International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation and Lutheran World Federation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2004/NGO/8);

(m) Statement submitted by the Foundation for the Rights of the Family, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2004/NGO/9);

(n) Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and European Union of Women, Foundation for the Rights of the Family, International Confederation of Christian Family Movements, International Council of Psychologists, International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, International Kolping Society and Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs and International Movement of Catholic Students), non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2004/NGO/10).

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat made an introductory statement under items sub-items 3 (a) and 3 (b).

3. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3

Implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

4. At the 12th meeting, on 12 February, the observer for Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the social

objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (E/CN.5/2004/L.8), which read:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world', held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

"*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, by which the Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to conduct, during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda and related initiatives on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the independent high-level quality evaluation, as well as on the basis of proposals by the Secretary-General on the modalities of the future engagement of the United Nations with the New Partnership for Africa's Development and its resolution 56/508 of 27 June 2002,

"*Reaffirming* the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000 and the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 20 September 2002 and General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

"*Welcoming* the endorsement of the decision of the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/300, by which it established the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa with the responsibilities of coordinating the United Nations support for Africa, guiding reporting on Africa and the coordination of global advocacy in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

"*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 58/233 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly, inter alia, welcomed the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate,

"*Welcoming* the adoption of the chapter entitled 'Sustainable development for Africa' in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Cognizant* of the link between the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the international community committed itself to addressing the special needs of Africa, and of the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration,

"*Bearing in mind* the reports of the Secretary-General of 20 June 1995 and 12 June 2001 submitted to high-level segments of the Economic and Social Council devoted to the consideration of the development of Africa,

"*Bearing in mind also* that, while the primary responsibility for the development of Africa remains with African countries, the international community has a stake in it and in supporting the efforts of those countries in that regard,

"*Noting* the outcome of the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III), and welcoming in this regard the adoption of the TICAD Tenth Anniversary Declaration, in which the commitment of the international community in its support of the New Partnership was declared,

"*Underlining* that international cooperation based on a spirit of partnership and solidarity among all countries contributes to create an enabling environment so as to achieve the goals of social development,

"*Recognizing also* the urgent need to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to diversify their economies as well as enhance capacity-building and promote regional cooperation, and in this context note the outcome of the 4th Pan African Conference of Ministers of Public Service, held in Stellenbosch, South Africa from 4 to 7 May 2003,

"*Recognizing further* the serious challenges facing social development in Africa, in particular illiteracy, poverty and HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases,

"1. *Emphasizes* that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

"2. *Recognizes* that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

"3. *Reiterates* the importance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development;

"4. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, inter alia, in a spirit of partnership, international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development and implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world';

"5. *Reaffirms also* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society for the achievement of social development;

"6. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a socio-economic programme of the African Union that embodies the vision and commitment of all African Governments and peoples;

"7. *Welcomes also* the Maputo Declaration on the integration of the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the African Union secretariat;

"8. *Welcomes further* the commitment of African countries to peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management, as well as their commitment to taking concrete measures to strengthen the mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution as embodied in the New Partnership, as an essential basis for sustainable development in Africa, and in this context welcomes the ongoing efforts of African countries to develop further the African peer review mechanism, which is an important and innovative feature of the New Partnership;

"9. *Stresses* the need for renewed and political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being so as to achieve the objectives of social development;

"10. *Emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, transparent and accountable governance, and administration in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

"11. *Emphasizes also* the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to eradicate poverty in Africa and to place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and thus facilitating Africa's participation in the globalization process;

"12. *Underlines* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and the need for ensuring, in the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national, regional and international levels;

"13. *Welcomes with appreciation* actions already under way at the regional level to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of the Partnership, and in that regard urges the strengthening of that process as a means of enhancing the coordinated response of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership;

"14. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership, based on the agreed clusters;

"15. *Stresses*, in that context, the vital need for the United Nations in assisting Member States to achieve the development objectives and targets of

the United Nations Millennium Declaration and to mainstream them in an integrated and coordinated manner in United Nations development activities;

"16. *Recognizes* that illiteracy, poverty, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases add challenges to Africa's development and urges the international community to continue to increase its assistance to African countries in their efforts to address these challenges;

"17. *Welcomes* the Maputo Declaration on the integration of the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the African Union structures;

"18. *Welcomes also* the entry into force of several institutions of the African Union foreseen in the Constitutive Act, notably the Pan-African Parliament, the Peace and Security Council, the African Court of Human and People's Rights, which will be essential for the promotion of social development and strengthening of democracy in Africa, and looks forward to the rapid entry into force of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council;

"19. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the new spirit of partnership;

"20. *Invites* the international financial institutions to ensure that their support for Africa is compatible with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership in the new spirit of Partnership;

"21. *Urges* the United Nations system, in coordinating its activities at the national, regional and global levels, to foster a coherent response, including through close collaboration with bilateral donors in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in response to the needs of individual countries within the larger framework of the Partnership;

"22. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to invite the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its role in respect of system-wide coordination, to consider how to support the objectives of General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 20 November 2002;

"23. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in his efforts to harmonize current initiatives on Africa, to enhance coordination between the United Nations and its specialized agencies, programmes and funds;

"24. *Acknowledges* reflection by the Secretary-General of the social dimensions of the Partnership in his report on the priority theme 'National and international cooperation for social development' to the Commission of Social Development at its forty-first session and invites him to continue to reflect those dimensions in future reports submitted to the Commission on its priority themes;

"25. *Notes with satisfaction* the work-in-progress in the five clusters of United Nations agencies established by the United Nations system with a view to operationalizing the renewed interaction, collaboration and cooperation with Africa on the established clusters (infrastructure: water and sanitation, energy,

transport and information and communication technologies; governance, peace and security; agriculture, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanization; and human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS);

"26. *Acknowledges* the linkage between the work of the Committee of African Ministers of Public Service and the programmatic thrust of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

"27. *Calls upon* the international development and continental development partners to actively support the governance and public administration programme of the Conference of Ministers of Public Service, through the provision of critical resources, and collaboration in building the capacity of local institutions and their staff to ensure sustainability into the future;

"28. *Recommends* the Commission for Social Development continue to give prominence to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in its future priority themes;

"29. *Decides* to bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session during its consideration of the agenda item entitled 'New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support'."

5. At its 14th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

6. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced revisions to the draft resolution, which were circulated in an informal paper.

7. Also at the 14th meeting, the Commission recommended draft resolution E/CN.5/2004/L.8, as revised, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution III).

Priority theme: improving public sector effectiveness (agenda item 3 (a))

8. At its 2nd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 4 and 5 February, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3 (a).

9. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 February, statements were made by the representatives of Zambia, Argentina and Peru and the observers for Ireland (on behalf of the European Union as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), Qatar (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Israel, Cuba and Chile.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Franciscans International, International Movement ATD Fourth World,

International Federation of Social Workers and International Council on Social Welfare.

11. At the 4th meeting, on 5 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Korea, China, Jamaica, Switzerland, Guatemala, Indonesia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, El Salvador and South Africa, as well as the observers for the Philippines and Mali.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of the World Bank made a statement.

13. Also at the 4th meeting, the observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies made a statement.

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS).

15. At the 5th meeting, on 5 February, statements were made by the representatives of India, Senegal, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, the Sudan, Ghana and Nigeria, as well as the observers for Thailand and Azerbaijan.

16. At the same meeting, the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific made a statement.

17. Also at the 5th meeting, the observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta made a statement.

18. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) made a statement.

19. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; Triglav Circle; and International Council of Psychologists (also on behalf of the American Psychological Association).

20. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 February, the Commission held a panel discussion under the sub-item, followed by an inter-active dialogue with the panellists. Presentations were made by Mary Jo Bane, Professor of Public Policy and Management, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, United States of America; Peter Humphreys, Director of Research, Irish National Institute of Public Administration; and Uma Devi Sambasivan, Professor, Centre for Women's and Gender Studies, University of Bergen, Norway.

21. A summary of the panel discussion by the Chairperson is contained in annex I to the present report.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (a)

Draft agreed conclusions on improving public sector effectiveness

22. At the 7th meeting, on 6 February, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ivana Grollová (Czech Republic), introduced the draft agreed conclusions on the priority theme, which was circulated in an informal paper.

23. At its resumed 14th meeting, on 20 February, the Commission had before it a revised paper (E/CN.5/2004/L.9) containing the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Ivana Grollová (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations.

24. Statements on the text were made by the representatives of Senegal, China, the Sudan and the Russian Federation and the observers for Cuba, Mali and Qatar.

25. At the same meeting, following a response by the Secretary, the Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions (E/CN.5/2004/L.9) (see chap. I, sect. C).

26. The observer for Egypt made a statement.

Report of the Secretary-General on improving pubic sector effectiveness

27. At its resumed 14th meeting, on 20 February, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on improving public sector effectiveness (E/CN.5/2004/5) (see chap. I, sect. E, decision 42/102).

Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups (agenda item 3 (b))

28. At its 6th, 7th and 8th meetings, on 6 and 9 February, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3 (b).

29. At the 6th meeting, on 6 February, statements were made by the representatives of Zambia, China, Mexico, Bangladesh, Japan, the Central African Republic, Kazakhstan, Bulgaria and the Russian Federation as well as the observers for Ireland (on behalf of the European Union as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), Algeria and Venezuela.

30. At the same meeting, the observer for the Holy See made a statement.

31. Also at the 6th meeting, the representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) made a statement.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for World Blind Union and Inclusion International (International League of Societies for Persons

with Mental Handicaps), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

33. At the 7th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission heard presentations on technical cooperation activities by the representatives of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as well as a statement by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development.

34. Also at the 7th meeting, the representative of Jamaica made a statement under the general discussion on sub-item 3 (b).

35. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Council on Alcohol and Addictions; Child Welfare League of America; World Federation of the Deaf (WFD); Rehabilitation International; Disabled People's International; and David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies.

36. At the 8th meeting, on 9 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Viet Nam, Belarus, Ghana, Argentina and Pakistan, and the observers for Morocco, Tunisia, Cameroon and Thailand.

37. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: HelpAge International; New Humanity; World Family Organization; and International Federation on Ageing.

38. At its 9th meeting, on 9 February, the Commission held a panel discussion, followed by an inter-active dialogue with the panellists, on modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (agenda item 3 (b) (iii)). Presentations were made by Ms. Heather Ricketts, Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Social Works, University of the West Indies, Jamaica; Ms. Amanda Heslop, Research Manager, HelpAge International, London, United Kingdom; and Mr. Dia Aboubacar, Inspector General, Ministry of Planning, Conakry, Guinea.

39. A summary of the panel discussion by the Chairperson is contained in annex II to the present report.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

40. At the 10th meeting, on 10 February, the representative of Benin introduced a draft resolution entitled "Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond" (E/CN.5/2004/L.3). Subsequently, Nigeria and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 45/133 of 14 December 1990, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993,

50/142 of 21 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002 and 58/15 of 3 December 2003 concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,

"*Recalling also* that major United Nations instruments on human rights and social policy, as well as relevant global plans and programmes of action, call for the widest possible protection and assistance to be accorded to the family,

"*Noting* that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the world conferences of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

"*Recognizing* that the preparations for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provided a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels,

"*Also recognizing* the commendable efforts made by Governments at the local and national levels in carrying out specific programmes concerning the family,

"*Convinced* that equality between women and men and respect for the human rights of all family members is essential to family well-being and to society at large, and noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life,

"*Aware* that families are affected by social and economic changes, manifested as observable worldwide trends, and that the causes and consequences of those trends concerning families have to be identified and analysed,

"*Noting with concern* the devastating effects of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic on family life, and urging the international community to address family-related concerns within the framework of the commitments undertaken, as agreed in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in June 2001,

"*Recognizing* the important role of non-governmental organizations, at both the local and national levels, working in the interest of families,

"*Aware* that there is a need for inter-agency cooperation in the field of families to generate greater awareness of family issues among the governing bodies of the United Nations system,

"*Recalling* that the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family will be celebrated during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

"1. *Decides* that the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family will be an integral part of the agenda and the

multiyear programme of work of the Commission on Social Development until 2006;

"2. *Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained actions at all levels concerning family issues, including studies and research, to promote the role of families in development and to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues;

"3. *Invites* Governments to continue their actions to build family-friendly societies, inter alia, by promoting the rights of individual family members, in particular gender equality and the rights of the child;

"4. *Emphasizes* that the active participation and involvement of non-governmental organizations as partners should be encouraged, in order to benefit from their experience and grass-roots links to promote local and national participation and action;

"5. *Calls upon* research and academic institutions to continue to play a valuable role in the family-policy process at all levels, particularly in improving knowledge and information on families;

"6. *Recommends* that all relevant actors, including Governments, research and academic institutions and civil society, contribute to developing strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening the economic and sustainable livelihood of families;

"7. *Urges* that more inter-agency cooperation and a wide range of activities be undertaken by the United Nations system in the area of the family;

"8. *Notes with appreciation* the study entitled 'Major trends affecting families worldwide', which provides a framework for the future activities of the programme on the family of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

"9. *Encourages* the regional commissions to promote further the exchange of experience at the subregional and regional levels and to encourage coordination of efforts among regional intergovernmental organizations, for example by establishing or strengthening regional-level working groups and structures for coordination purposes, by providing support for non-governmental efforts, as well as by providing technical assistance, including advisory services, to Governments;

"10. *Ensures* that the programme on the family shall continue its lead entity role, in cooperation with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society, in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the mandated objectives of the International Year of the Family, entailing, inter alia, the provision of technical assistance to national coordination mechanisms, diagnostic studies, exchanges of expertise and experiences on salient family issues, research and data collection, information dissemination and policy and programme coordination within and outside the United Nations system;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to:

"(a) Give appropriate consideration to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family by preparing the observance of the

International Day of Families on 15 May 2004 and by taking appropriate steps to promote the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

"(b) Initiate a research agenda on family concerns, including balancing work and familial responsibilities, fatherhood, changes in the family and society, the family as a source of cohesion, families as income-generating enterprises, analysis of family legislations, and family as caregiver;

"(c) Continue to utilize the United Nations Trust Fund to support national actions and projects that directly promote the objectives of the International Year in the developing countries, especially in the least developed countries, and build national capacities for long-term family-oriented policies, including support for research, data collection, information exchange and experience sharing between countries on family issues;

"(d) Incorporate a capacity-building component in the programme on the family to provide advisory services, to assist Governments in integrating family-related programmes into national development strategies and facilitating the implementation and evaluation of national family-related policies and programmes within the framework of the objectives of the International Year;

"(e) Integrate a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the report on the implementation of resolution 58/15 at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly."

41. At its 14th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

42. At the same meeting, the representative of Benin introduced revisions to the draft resolution, which were circulated in an informal paper.

43. Burkina Faso,[1] the Central African Republic, China, Côte d'Ivoire,[1] Ghana, the Republic of Korea, Senegal and Thailand[1] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as revised.

44. The representative of the United States of America proposed an amendment to the text, which was accepted by the representative of Benin on behalf of the sponsors.

45. Also at the 14th meeting, following a statement by the observer for Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), the Commission recommended draft resolution E/CN.5/2004/L.3, as revised and amended, to the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly (see chap. I, sect. A).

46. The representative of Benin made a statement.

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

47. At the 12th meeting, on 12 February, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Argentina, Brazil,[1] Chile,[1] China, Ecuador, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand,[1] Nicaragua,[1] Peru, Romania and Tunisia,[1] introduced a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities" (subsequently issued in E/CN.5/2004/L.5), which read:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all Member States and observers to the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development,

"*Recalling* also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/12 of 21 July 2003 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

"*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 58/246 of 23 December 2003, by which the Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee will start the negotiations on a draft convention at its third session,

"*Welcoming* the important contributions made so far to the Ad Hoc Committee by all stakeholders,

"*Welcoming also* the progress made in the Working Group established by the Ad Hoc Committee in preparing a draft text which would be the basis for negotiations on a draft convention in the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account all contributions,

"*Encouraging* Member States and observers to participate actively in the Ad Hoc Committee in order to present to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, a draft text of a convention,

"*Reaffirming* the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination,

"*Taking note with satisfaction* of the positive steps taken by Governments in order to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

"*Encouraged* by the increased support of the international community for the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities under a comprehensive and integral approach,

"1. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to contribute to the process of negotiation of a draft international convention by,

inter alia, providing its views regarding the social development perspective, bearing in mind the experience in the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

"2. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission to the process of negotiation of a draft convention and requests the Special Rapporteur further to contribute and participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, bearing in mind the experience in the monitoring of the Standard Rules and in collaboration with the Secretariat by, inter alia, providing her views on the elements to be considered in the convention and promoting awareness about the process among Governments and civil society;

"3. *Requests* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Division for Social Policy and Development, to continue to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, through, inter alia, the organization of experts meetings and the provision of information on issues related to the international convention, including national and international experiences and norms and standards on disabilities, as appropriate;

"4. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening the cooperation and coordination between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in order jointly to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

"5. *Invites* bodies, organs and entities of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, particularly those working in the fields of social and economic development and human rights, within their respective mandates, to continue to provide suggestions about elements for a convention;

"6. *Also invites* non-governmental organizations, national disability and human rights institutions and independent experts with an interest in the matter to continue to make available to the Ad Hoc Committee suggestions and possible elements to be included in proposals for a convention;

"7. *Encourages* the relevant bodies of the United Nations to continue to promote and support the active participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the process of elaboration of an international convention in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 56/510 of 23 July 2002 and 57/229 of 18 December 2002, and requests the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to non-governmental organizations all available information on accreditation procedures, modalities and supportive measures for their participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

"8. *Invites* Governments, civil society and the private sector to contribute to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly to support the participation of non-governmental organizations and experts from developing countries, in particular from the least developed countries, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

"9. *Stresses* the need for additional efforts to ensure accessibility with reasonable accommodation regarding facilities and documentation at the United Nations for all persons with disabilities in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/474 of 23 July 2002;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur to report to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution."

48. At its 14th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

49. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico introduced revisions to the draft resolution, which were circulated in an informal paper.

50. Burkina Faso,[2] Cameroon,[2] Côte d'Ivoire,[2] Cuba,[2] the Dominican Republic, Egypt,[2] El Salvador, Haiti,[2] Israel,[2] Jordan,[2] Namibia,[2] the Republic of Korea, Senegal, South Africa, Suriname, Thailand,[2] Uruguay,[2] Venezuela[2] and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as revised.

51. Also at the 14th meeting, the Commission recommended draft resolution E/CN.5/2004/L.5, as revised, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution I).

Action taken by the Commission

Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities, and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities

52. At its 13th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities, and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities" (E/CN.5/2004/L.6), which was submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations. The draft resolution read:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Recalling* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments,

"*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and 56/115 of 19 December 2001,

"*Recalling further* General Assembly resolutions 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which it established the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights

[2] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 57/229 of 18 December 2002, in which it sought views on proposals for a convention, and 58/246 of 26 November 2003, by which it decided that the Ad Hoc Committee will start the negotiations on a draft convention at its third session,

"*Recalling* its resolution 2002/26 of 24 July 2002 on further promotion of the equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/49 of 23 April 2003 on the human rights of persons with disabilities, and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the views of Governments on the proposals contained in the report of the former Special Rapporteur on Disability, especially on the suggested supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, as well as the views expressed during the forty-second session of the Commission for Social Development;

"2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development undertaken in accordance with section IV of the Standard Rules;

"3. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it consider, at its fifty-ninth session, the suggested supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities contained in the report of the Secretary-General, with a view to adopting a supplement to the Standard Rules;

"4. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on Disability to contribute to the consideration of the suggested supplement by providing her views on possible elements reflecting new developments and requests the Secretary-General to make her views available to all Member States and observer States;

"5. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur, assisted by the Secretariat and in consultation with the panel of experts, to prepare a report on the result of the monitoring on the implementation of the Standard Rules, for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session;

"6. *Encourages* Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability in order to support the activities of the Special Rapporteur as well as new and expanded initiatives to strengthen national capacities for equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities."

53. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

54. Also at the 13th meeting, the representative of Switzerland, on behalf of the Chairperson, introduced revisions to the draft resolution, which were circulated in an informal paper.

55. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Senegal, the Commission recommended draft resolution E/CN.5/2004/L.6, as revised, for

adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution II).

Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

56. At its 13th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002" (E/CN.5/2004/L.7), submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador), on the basis of informal consultations.

57. The Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

58. At the same meeting, following a statement by the Vice-Chairperson, Mr. García González (El Salvador), the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2004/L.7 (see chap. I, sect. E, resolution 42/1).

Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development: international migration and migrants from social perspective (agenda item 3 (c))

59. At the 10th meeting, on 10 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development made an introductory statement under sub-item 3 (c).

60. At the same meeting, the Commission heard a presentation on the outcome of the Third International Forum for Social Development by the Coordinator of the Forum.

61. Also at the 10th meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion under sub-item 3 (c), followed by an inter-active dialogue with the panellists. Presentations were made by Mr. Gerónimo Gutiérrez, Vice-Minister for North America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, and Mr. Jan O. Karlsson, Co-Chair of the Global Commission on International Migration.

62. A summary of the panel discussion by the Chairperson is contained in annex III to the present report.

Chapter IV
Programme questions and other matters

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 11th meeting, on 11 February 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on a proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 (E/CN.5/2004/7).

2. At the 11th meeting, on 11 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement.

3. Statements were made by the representative of the United States of America and the observers for Cuba and Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), as well as by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, who responded to questions raised.

Action taken by the Commission

4. At its 11th meeting, on 11 February, the Commission agreed to transmit its proposed biennial programme plan, as contained in document E/CN.5/2004/7, to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for its consideration, together with comments made by delegations during the discussion.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its resumed 14th meeting, on 20 February 2004. It had before it the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-third session of the Commission (E/CN.5/2004/L.2), which was introduced and revised by the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

2. At the same meeting, the observer for Qatar made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

3. Also at the resumed 14th meeting, the representative of the Sudan raised a question, to which the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development responded.

4. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-third session (see chap. I, sect. D).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-second session

1. At the resumed 14th meeting, on 20 February 2004, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission with rapporteurial responsibilities, Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-second session (E/CN.5/2004/L.4).

2. The Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its forty-second session at United Nations Headquarters on 21 February 2003 and from 4 to 13 and 20 February 2004. The Commission held 14 meetings (1st to 14th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.5/2004/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. In subparagraph (c) of its decision 2002/210 of 13 February 2002, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairman and other members of the Bureau. In pursuance of that decision, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation at its 1st meeting, on 21 February 2003:

Chairperson:
Jean-Jacques Elmiger (Switzerland)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Darmansjah Djumala (Indonesia)
Ivana Grollová (Czech Republic)

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February 2004, the Commission was advised that Mr. Djumala had resigned as Vice-Chairperson.

5. Accordingly, the Commission proceeded to elect the following three members by acclamation as Vice-Chairpersons, thus completing the election of the Bureau for the forty-second session:

Prayono Atiyanto (Indonesia)
Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador)
Mwelwa C. Musambachime (Zambia)

6. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Commission designated Carlos Enrique García González (El Salvador) Vice-Chairman with rapporteurial responsibilities.

D. Agenda and organization of work

7. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.5/2004/1/Rev.1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Priority theme: improving public sector effectiveness;
   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
      (i) Tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;
      (ii) Equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities;
      (iii) Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
   (c) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development: international migration and migrants from a social perspective.
4. Programme questions.
5. Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-second session.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session, as contained in document E/CN.5/2004/L.1/Rev.1.

E. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Commission at its forty-second session is contained in annex IV to the present report.

Annex I

Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on the priority theme "Improving public sector effectiveness"

At its 2nd meeting on 4 February 2004, the Commission for Social Development held a panel discussion on its priority theme, "Improving public sector effectiveness". The Chairperson of the Commission, Jean-Jacques Elmiger (Switzerland), acted as moderator. The members of the panel were Ms. Mary Jo Bane, Professor of Public Policy and Management, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (United States of America), Mr. Peter Humphreys, Director of Research, Irish National Institute of Public Administration (Ireland), and Ms. Uma Devi Sambasivan, Professor, Centre for Women's and Gender Studies, University of Bergen, Norway (India).

Approaches to public sector reform

By and large, three approaches to public sector reform can be applied in diverse settings. These include: traditional good government reform; market-oriented reform; and industrial performance and workplace transformation.

Traditional good government reform primarily focuses on methods for ensuring accountability and transparency. These methods include civil service reform measures, such as merit hiring, promotion and pay, as well as financial and budgeting reforms, such as honest collection and reporting of revenues and expenses. These are basic and necessary foundations for further reforms and apply even in cases where services have been privatized. Flexibility needs to be incorporated into traditional reform measures in order not to stifle innovation.

Market-oriented reform seeks to privatize and contract out public services, introduce competition into government operations and use performance contracts between the policy-making and operational functions within government. While this approach implies that the private sector is always more efficient, effective and transparent than government, this is often not the case. Furthermore, certain services, especially national defence, are more appropriately provided by the public sector.

The third approach, industrial performance and workplace transformation, emphasizes the importance of worker motivation, dedication and responsiveness, especially in services such as education, health care and police work. This approach recognizes that public workers are motivated by service and challenge as well as by money and stresses autonomy, trust and communication with workers.

Which approach (or approaches) a Government follows depends on an assessment of the problems to be addressed, the resources available and the strength of existing accountability measures, although the foundations of good governance must be in place.

Privatization and the effectiveness of the public sector: social protection versus efficiency?

Historically, the public sector was set up to provide social protection. Thus, its effectiveness should be measured by its ability to extend social protection to the marginalized sections of the society rather than just in terms of efficiency. It is argued that a transformation, to redistribute power and wealth in favour of the disadvantaged, as well as good governance and managerial practices are needed in order to improve the effectiveness of the public sector.

Very often, a narrow efficiency criterion is used to justify privatization of the public sector, which has taken various forms, including the introduction of private sector management and business practices to the public sector, service/function outsourcing and divestment or even sale of public enterprises.

Furthermore, the impact of privatization on all stakeholders, including public sector workers, should be taken into account as well. In the light of studies in Africa and Latin America, a cautious approach should be taken with regard to privatization to safeguard against reduced access by poor people and to avoid widening the gap between the rich and the poor.

In the privatization process, there has been a tendency for Governments to pass on unprofitable units to workers' cooperatives. However, it is questionable if the transformation of unprofitable entities into workers' cooperatives born out of privatization in the public sector empowers workers. As it is often the case, capital equity in workers' cooperatives is remunerated at a lower interest rate, resulting in under-capitalization, which, in turn, makes it difficult to obtain loans for growth. Turning unprofitable operations into workers' cooperatives also dooms them to a position of making up for the social fallout from privatization and traps them in a market segment that the private sector is unwilling to enter. As a result, workers' cooperatives are destined to remain on the margins of society, even if they are successful, as it is the case in some European countries.

Given these reservations about the prospect of workers' cooperatives empowering workers and providing needed social protection, it is suggested that studies should be undertaken to explore possible avenues for workers' cooperatives to function as vehicles for social protection. Experience in some countries has shown that workers' cooperatives have not been successful. One of the main problems is how to achieve protection for workers in the current environment of free trade. The State should try to make public sector entities work before turning them into cooperatives. Furthermore, special treatment and tariff protection for products of worker cooperatives should be negotiated under the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Critical success factors of public sector reform

Critical success factors in public service reform are: strong motivation from and leadership at the top of public agencies; involvement of the public; respect for the workers who actually deliver the services; optimal use of managerial and information tools; focus on excellence of service; and a partnership approach.

The success of the public sector cannot be judged or measured in the same way as that of the private sector. Measurement of the effectiveness of the public sector has to be related to the specific work of each public sector organization, against their specific established benchmarks. Another set of benchmarks, on citizen's satisfaction with the services provided, can be measured, for example, through surveys. Other good measures of effectiveness are whether services reach the poorest of society and whether citizens' feedback is taken into account.

Civil service reform

An indispensable element of an effective civil service is the quality of civil servants and their participation in reform efforts.

Employee reward systems have encountered difficulties in some countries. For example, in an effort to combat corruption, one country attempted to raise the salaries of public servants to 80 per cent of the market rate. A resultant problem was that the salaries of the political directorate were tied to the salaries of general civil servants, so an increase in civil service pay also meant an increase in the salary of these high-level posts, turning it into a political issue.

In another country, performance-related pay was considered in the 1990s, but was not enacted due to resistance from the unions and staff representatives (partners in the reform process), who argued that it was difficult to introduce an equitable performance-related pay system. Instead a performance review system was adopted. However, pay is only one form of reward and recognition for civil servants. They are also motivated by the drive to provide excellent services to citizens.

Trade unions

Experiences in public sector reform have highlighted the need for new ways to foster social dialogue between trade unions and governments. Labour unions often face a dilemma when privatization takes place: they have to choose between tacit support for measures weakening workers' rights and the alternative of closure and job losses.

Through social dialogue, resistance to reform could be reduced by taking into account reform's impact on workers, including job security and workers' rights during privatization.

Some countries have encountered problems when trying to reform the public sector. Public sector trade unions have reacted negatively when confronted with reform, leading to worker retrenchment. Other countries have had mixed experiences. Some unions have not wanted to get involved in the reform process, while others (especially teachers and health-care workers' unions) have been successfully involved in negotiations, largely driven by their commitment to deliver the best services to the community.

In many developing countries, large numbers of workers have been driven into the informal sector where there is no organized representation. This phenomenon has made trade unions more defensive in protecting jobs in the civil service and obtaining wage increases for their members. In this regard, a struggle between these two groups as the wage gap widens and frustrations mount in the unorganized sector

is a potential problem. Another related risk is unrest originating from the unorganized sector, where behaviour is difficult to predict. This situation further underscores the importance of finding new forms of social dialogue among all stakeholders in order to avoid disruptions to the delivery of social services and setbacks in social development.

Resources

It has been argued that the constraints faced by developing countries are less of a resource problem and more one of capacity-building. However, since different countries have different resources, including natural resources, it is important to make a distinction between capacity and utilization of resources in general. On the other hand, some resources must be made available to the public sector if it is to function well. It is necessary both to have the resources and make effective use of them, but there is no rule about what the right size of the public sector should be. The optimal size of the public sector and civil service depends on each individual country and its level of development.

The experience and lessons from the modernization of the public service in Ireland

Since 1994, the major objectives of the modernization of the Irish public service have been to: provide excellent service to the public; contribute to national development; and make efficient and effective use of resources. Based on these three goals, the approach of the reform process thus far has been to: increase quality customer service and provide excellent service to both Government and the public; bring about openness, transparency and accountability through regulatory reform and reform of business environments; and undertake internal systems reform in the areas of human resources, information systems and financial management.

After putting the legislative building blocks in place, in 1997 Ireland instituted its Quality Customer Service Initiative. The Initiative, which includes Customer Action Plans and Service Standards Charters, provides guiding principles for public service modernization and reform, such as the publishing and display of the standards of the Initiative outlining the nature and quality of services that external customers can expect. Other principles include diversity, equality, physical access, information, timeliness and courtesy, a complaints and appeals system, customer consultation and evaluation, choice of payment systems, services provided through more than one spoken language, better coordination of service delivery and the recognition that staff are also internal customers. Trade unions in Ireland played an instrumental role in creating a training body geared towards helping civil servants cope with the new requirements of their jobs introduced as a result of reform efforts.

Annex II

Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

At its 8th meeting, on 9 February 2004, the Commission held a panel discussion on the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. The panellists included: Heather Ricketts, Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of the West Indies, Jamaica; Amanda Heslop, Research Manager, HelpAge International, London; and Aboubacar Dia, Inspector General, Ministry of Planning, Republic of Guinea.

The objective of the panel discussion was to illustrate for the Commission some pertinent approaches to policy formulation, implementation and monitoring, focusing on participatory methodologies that involve a diversity of stakeholders.

Social assessment methodologies

Social assessment methodologies promote full participation of all stakeholders, including government employees, representatives of non-governmental organizations, academics and graduate students. The process of carrying out such an assessment was described, emphasizing not only the participation of different stakeholders, but also the validation of findings by them. It was also described how the findings of an assessment gave the Government crucial and sometimes new information that influenced the design of policy interventions. The findings will be used to strengthen the design of the Jamaican Survey of Living Conditions in 2004. The limitations of participatory social assessment were raised, such as the difficulties in assuring the availability of stakeholders and in getting homogenous groups for focus group discussions; the lack of punctuality of some stakeholders in attending meetings; and, sometimes, the difficulty of ensuring the participation of specific segments of the population. However, social assessment reinforced the value of triangulation, the importance of gathering information directly from primary stakeholders and those most affected by an issue; the ability of discovering emerging issues quickly; and the importance of giving regular feedback to stakeholders and making the necessary adjustments to policies and programmes quickly.

Bottom-up approach

The benefits of a "bottom-up approach", which promotes inclusion, diversity, and the bringing together of older people and secondary stakeholders were described. An older citizen's monitoring project is being implemented in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Jamaica, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania to support older people and their organizations in monitoring the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The process is engaging older people with relevant agencies, supporting local and national advocacy with and by older people, developing locally relevant indicators and benchmarks, and promoting dialogue with local and international development agencies.

In Bangladesh, older people are studying the health and nutrition service package and old age allowance. In Bolivia, they are looking at free medical insurance for older persons within the national Law of Rights and Privileges. In Jamaica, older persons are looking at the National Health Fund and the Government Pension Scheme. In Kenya, they are looking at the delivery of health services for older persons, and in the United Republic of Tanzania, older persons are studying the health sector reform programme (access to free health services) and the local government reform programme (budget allocation and development plans). Many civil society organizations view the type of participatory assessment it is undertaking with older persons as an example of the type of bottom-up approach to providing information that Member States could utilize in assessing the priorities of older persons and the first-hand realities of policy effectiveness.

It was stressed that it is not necessary to develop new structures to carry out participatory assessments with older persons, but rather, to utilize and strengthen existing structures where older people live. It is also helpful to create alliances with other active groups of civil society.

The participatory process and poverty reduction strategy papers

The participatory process leading up to and culminating in the drafting of the World Bank's poverty reduction strategy paper for Guinea in 2002 was discussed at length.

Prior experience in attempting to introduce a consultative process into policy making had been limited to obtaining the validation of documents already drafted by consultants during the elaboration of a national programme on human development (1995-1997) and the formulation of an assistance strategy of the World Bank for Guinea in 1997, which involved surveying population groups on their priorities for sectoral intervention by the Government and development partners. The rationale for the Government's desire to carry out a participatory poverty reduction strategy paper process was to improve the quality of decision-making, to give renewed impulse to the development dynamic, to design a strategy relevant to the issues that are important to the population, in particular the poor, and to improve efficiency.

The process began before the drafting of the poverty reduction strategy paper with direct consultations to ascertain the population's perceptions of poverty and invite their proposals for reducing poverty. This was followed by the creation of thematic groups that would form the basis of the poverty reduction strategy paper strategy. Results of these consultations were presented to the public at regional meetings and the drafting of the interim poverty reduction strategy paper began. The draft was circulated for comments to a wide variety of stakeholders prior to finalization. During these presentations, issues raised by marginalized groups that had not yet been taken into account in the drafting were added. The participatory methodology employed illustrates how successful participation involves a continuous cycle of consultation with stakeholders to solicit views, provide feedback and make any necessary changes to documents to reflect the views and feedback provided.

Annex III

Chairperson's summary of the panel discussion on international migration and migrants from a social perspective

At its 10th meeting on 10 February, under item 3 (c) of its agenda, "Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting social development", the Commission for Social Development held a panel discussion on "International migration and migrants from a social perspective". The Chairperson of the Commission, Jean-Jacques Elmiger (Switzerland), acted as moderator. The members of the panel were Mr. Gerónimo Gutiérrez (Vice-Minister for North America at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico) and Mr. Jan O. Karlsson (Co-Chair of the Global Commission on International Migration).

International migration is a complex phenomenon with demographic, economic, legal and social facets. It has a North-South dimension, although not uniquely, since the movements of people across the world are increasingly diversified. It has a strong regional dimension, notably when regions have embarked into processes of cooperation and integration. A prominent example is the European Union. In addition, international migration is an inherent and critical aspect of the current process of interdependence and globalization.

It was generally agreed that international cooperation in this domain ought to be reinforced. For some, as a matter of urgency; for others, in a very gradual manner; for all, by building on existing forms of cooperation, notably the various regional processes. The main objectives of this strengthened international cooperation would be to better manage migratory movements, to protect international migrants and, as part of the process of cooperation, to progressively envisage to establish a normative framework acceptable to all countries concerned. The notion of shared responsibility was evoked.

Means to these objectives include a change in the overall negative perception that currently marks migration in parts of the world, a great effort at communication on the positive role of migrants — notably their economic contribution to host countries. Regarding the countries of origin of the migrants and the benefits they derive from the emigration of their citizens, the question of remittances was discussed. While these remittances are important from an economic and development viewpoint, it was recalled that they are part of personal income and that the main issue for bilateral and international cooperation is to ensure that they can be easily and cheaply transferred by the immigrants themselves. The question of brain drain was also mentioned. Some developing countries are losing people essential to their development, for instance in the health sectors, without the ability to compete to retain such personnel. Not all developing countries benefit in return from "brain gain".

In addition to improving communication and disseminating accurate facts, an equally great effort is needed to produce reliable information, data and concepts adjusted to the changing realities of international migration. Moreover, the active involvement of Governments and other national and international, public and private actors of the development process is required in the various aspects of strengthened cooperation on migratory issues. As international migration is still primarily the

result of income and resources differences and imbalances between countries and regions, the effects of international economic, trade and financial trends and policies on employment and income opportunities in countries of emigration should be carefully assessed. All forms of international cooperation are linked. Strengthened and effective international cooperation on migration and the situation of migrants will depend on the quality and coherence of related national policies.

It was also generally agreed that a social perspective on international migration and the situation of migrants was a legitimate and useful facet of a more active international cooperation. This social perspective ought to be focused on the perceptions of the issue, the well-being of the migrants and the effects of migration on the social fabric of the countries concerned. A clear and secure legal status, a decent job yielding a sufficient income and access to social services and social benefits are key elements of the well-being and personal security of immigrants. Their social protection is essential to their integration. The protection and enhancement of their rights remain fundamental and should not be seen in terms of the costs involved, but rather in terms of the building of a peaceful and harmonious world community. Exploitation, discrimination, xenophobia and racism towards immigrants are scourges that will be eliminated by forceful and coherent policies at all levels. The situation of women and children, often victims of exploitation and abuse, was emphasized as requiring determined forms of cooperation.

An important aspect of international cooperation on migration from a social perspective would be the establishment or strengthening of precise and efficient mechanisms and processes for a dialogue, exchange of information and knowledge and exchange of experiences between Governments, involving the other actors concerned. These exchanges would take into account the needs and prospects of the members of the international community and would integrate elements such as the evolution of technologies, demographic trends, questions of security and the various gaps, inequalities and forms of poverty that ought to be eliminated. The involvement of migrants themselves and of organizations of civil society and the private sector in such processes was emphasized.

The Commission was apprised of the launching of the Global Commission on International Migration, co-chaired by Jan Karlsson and Mamphela Ramphele.

Annex IV

List of documents before the Commission at its forty-second session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.5/2004/1	2	Provisional annotated agenda
E/CN.5/2004/1/Rev.1	2	Revised provisional annotated agenda
E/CN.5/2004/2	2	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
E/CN.5/2004/3	3 (b) (i)	Report of the Secretary-General on preparation for and observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2004)
E/CN.5/2004/4	3 (b) (ii)	Report of the Secretary-General on the views of Governments on the proposals contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability (E/CN.5/2002/4), especially on the suggested supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
E/CN.5/2004/5	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on improving public sector effectiveness
E/CN.5/2004/6	3 (b) (iv)	Note by the Secretariat on modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
E/CN.5/2004/7	4	Note by the Secretary-General on a proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007
E/CN.5/2004/L.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session
E/CN.5/2004/L.1/Rev.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the revised organization of work of the session
E/CN.5/2004/L.2	5	Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission
E/CN.5/2004/L.3	3 (b) (i)	Draft resolution entitled "Celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond"
E/CN.5/2004/L.4	6	Draft report of the Commission on its forty-second session
E/CN.5/2004/L.5	3 (b) (ii)	Draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities"
E/CN.5/2004/L.6	3 (b) (ii)	Draft resolution entitled "Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities, and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities"
E/CN.5/2004/L.7	3 (b) (iii)	Draft resolution entitled "Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002"

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.5/2004/L.8	3	Draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development"
E/CN.5/2004/L.9	3 (a)	Draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ivana Grollová (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations
E/CN.5/2004/NGO/1	3 (a)	Statement submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.5/2004/NGO/2	3 (b) (i)	Statement submitted by a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.5/2004/NGO/3	3 (b) (i)	Statement submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.5/2004/NGO/4	3 (b) (ii)	Statement submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.5/2004/NGO/5	3 (a)	Statement submitted by a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.5/2004/NGO/6	3 (a)	Statement submitted by a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.5/2004/NGO/7	3 (a)	Statement submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.5/2004/NGO/8	3 (a)	Statement submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.5/2004/NGO/9	3 (b) (i)	Statement submitted by a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.5/2004/NGO/10	3 (b) (i)	Statement submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

04-26343 (E) 070404

E/2004/26
E/CN.5/2004/8